

Message Text

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13
ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PM-04 NSC-05

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FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3488
INFO COMUSJAPAN YOKOTA
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AMEMBASSY SEOUL

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, JA
SUBJECT: EMPEROR'S FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY

1. CEREMONIES TO COMMEMORATE FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF EMPEROR'S REIGN WERE HELD IN TOKYO BEFORE SOME 7,500 INVITED GUESTS NOVEMBER 10. SPEECHES OF PRIME MINISTER, UPPER AND LOWER HOUSE SPEAKERS, CHIEF JUSTICE AND DEAN OF DIPLOMATIC CORPS EMPHASIZED BOND BETWEEN EMPOROR AND PEOPLE, SHARED GOOD AND BAD FORTUNES AND EMPOROR'S DEVOTION TO PEACE. DEAN OF DIPLOMATIC CORPS QUOTED EMPOROR'S STATEMENT AT BEGINNING OF REIGN STRESSING PEACE, PROSPERITY AND EDUCATION. EMPOROR RESPONDED BY THANKING JAPANESE PEOPLE FOR BEARING THE BURDENS OF WAR AND EFFORTS OF POSTWAR RECONSTRUCTION.

2. TODAY'S CEREMONY WAS FOLLOWED BY A PARADE ON GINZA; IMPERIAL TEA PARTIES ARE SCHEDULED NOVEMBER 11 AND 12. JSP AND JCP BOYCOTTED CEREMONY AS DID TOKYO GOVERNOR MINOBE, BUT REFORMIST OSAKA GOVERNOR WAS PRESENT.

3. BECAUSE OF REPEATED THREATS OF DISRUPTION BY RADICAL LEFTIST GROUPS OVER THE PAST SEVERAL MONTHS, CEREMONIES TOOK PLACE UNDER HEAVY POLICE PROTECTION. NO SIGNIFICANT INCIDENTS HAVE BEEN REPORTED THUS FAR.

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AT OPPOSITE END OF SPECTRUM, JAPANESE RIGHTIST ORGANI-

ZATIONS, LED BY GREAT JAPAN PATRIOTIC PARTY CHAIRMAN
BIN AKAO, WERE OUT IN FORCE, DISRUPTING TRAFFIC THROUGH
TOWN WITH THEIR FLAG-FLYING SOUND TRUCKS, AS THEY
ATTEMPTED TO DRUM UP SUPPORT FOR CELEBRATIONS.

4. MOST PAPERS COMMENTED FAVORABLY ON CEREMONIES AS
FITTING TRIBUTE TO EMPOROR BUT SOME CAUTIONED ABOUT
THE NEED TO EXERT VIGILANCE LEST THE DARKER ASPECTS OF
THE FIFTY-YEAR REIGN BE REVIVED.

5. CEREMONIES CAUSED NO GREAT WAVE OF ENTHUSIASM.
GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES WERE PROBABLY GRATEFUL, HOWEVER,
FOR HALF-DAY HOLIDAY PROCLAIMED BY GOJ.
HODGSON

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